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## Greece

**Post:** Rome

### Transposition of the RED into National Legislation Update

**Report Categories:**

Bio-Fuels

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**Report Highlights:**

Greece has not yet implemented the new Renewable Energy Directive (RED) 2009/28/EC. The Ministry for Environment, Energy, and Climate Change set up a Working Group to draft implementing legislation. The draft bill is currently ready and will be uploaded online for public consultation (which is expected to last approximately 10 days). The working group will then incorporate the comments of the public consultation to the draft bill by Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

## **Introduction**

Renewable energy is crucial to develop a low carbon economy. It is also a key component of the EU-27 energy strategy to develop a diverse range of mostly indigenous energy resources. EU renewable energy policy is relatively young, having started with the adoption of the 1997 White Paper. It has been driven by the need to decarbonize the energy sector and address growing dependency on fossil fuel imports from politically unstable regions outside the EU. Over that period, the focus has shifted from the promotion of renewable energy through indicative targets for the electrical and transport sectors to the definition of legally binding targets supported by a comprehensive legislative framework, and most recently, by a reorientation of European energy infrastructure policy that facilitates renewable energy growth.

## **The new “Renewable Energy Directive”**

The RED (2009/28/EC of 23 April 2009 on The Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC) provides a strong and stable regulatory framework for the development of the renewable energy in Europe.

The RED promotes the use of renewable sources for electricity generation and sets a target for energy from renewables of 20 percent of total energy consumption across the EU by 2020, including a further target of 10 percent for energy from renewable sources for each Member State’s transport energy consumption.

Under Article 4 of the RED, each Member State is required to submit a National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) setting national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be used to meet demands for transport, electricity, heating and cooling in 2020.

## **Greek transposition of the new “Renewable Energy Directive”**

Greek Law 3851/2010 (OG A/85/4th June 2010) “Accelerating the Development of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) to Deal with Climate Change and Other Regulations in Topics under the Authority of the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate Change,” sets the Greek Renewable Energy Action Plan in the scope of Directive 2009/28/EC.

Specifically, Law 3851/2010 sets specific targets for RES electricity share (40 percent), RES heating and cooling share (20 percent), and RES transport share (10 percent) in order to achieve the national target of 20 percent contribution of the energy produced from RES to the gross final energy consumption.

According to the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (as referred at the Law 3851/2010), the penetration of biofuels to meet the 20-20-20 target in the transport sector will be achieved through a combination of regulatory actions targeted to promote both the use of more energy-efficient vehicles and the consumption of biofuels in substitution of fossil transport fuels. Emphasis will be put on the domestic production of the required amounts of biodiesel, on the exploitation of the local biomass potential with the cultivation of energy crops for biofuels and

on the development of the necessary supply chains in order to assure a significant contribution of the domestic agricultural production.

This target is to be achieved through a combination of measures for energy efficiency and for the large penetration of RES technologies in electricity production, heat supply, and transport sector.

Thus far, Greece has not implemented the RED. On July 2011, the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate set up a Working Group to harmonize the Greek institutional framework — the laws n. 3054/2002, 3468/2006, 4001/2011, 3851/2011 — to the EU Directives 2009/28/EC and 2009/30/EC.

The Working Group is composed of 18 representatives from several Ministries and Organizations. The number in the brackets below shows the number of representatives.

1. Legal Council of State (President of the working group) (1)
2. Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate Change (7)
  - Directorate of Oil Policy, General Secretariat for Energy and Climate Change (1)
  - Special Secretariat for Forests (1)
  - General Secretariat for Regional Planning & Urban Development (1)
  - Investors Service for RES projects (1)
  - Directorate of Air Pollution and Noise (2)
  - Directorate of Environmental Planning (1)
3. Ministry of Finance (1)
  - Directorate of Petrochemicals (1)
4. Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks (1)
  - Directorate of Vehicle Technology (1)
5. Ministry of Rural Development and Food (3)
  - Directorate of Production and Utilization of Large Cultivation Plant Products (2)
  - Directorate of Regional Planning and Environment Protection (1)
6. Renewable Energy Sources Team (1)
7. Centre for Renewable Energy and Saving (2)
  - Biomass Department (1)
  - Environmental & Transport Department (1)
8. National Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development (1)
9. Regulatory Authority for Energy (1)

The Group completed its work on Oct. 31. The draft bill is currently ready and will be uploaded online for public consultation (which is expected to last approximately 10 days). The working group will then incorporate the comments of the public consultation to the draft bill by Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.